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APPLICATION NO. FILING	DATE FIRST NAMED INVE	NTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/955,351 09/17	7/2001 Nathan T. Lee	: 11576.56US01	2171
23552 7590	08/07/2003		
MERCHANT & GOUL	D PC	EXAM	IINER
P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55	402-0903	THALER, N	MICHAEL H
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
		3731	7
		DATE MAILED: 08/07/200	3

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FORMONICATION. THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 3 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be extension of or time may be available under the provisions of 3 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply the extension of time may be available under the provisions of 3 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply the extension of time one with explication to his communication. If the period for reply specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication of 11 NO period for reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statule, cause the application to become ABANDO Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statule, cause the application to become ABANDO Failure to reply within the STATE of the mailing date of this communication, even if timely for the application is provided period for reply will, by statule, cause the application to become ABANDO Failure and patterns a	timely filed days will be considered timely. rom the mailing date of this communication. NNED (35 U.S.C. § 133). filed, may reduce any s, prosecution as to the ments is 11, 453 O.G. 213.
## Examiner Michael Thaler A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH- THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(e). In no event, however, may a reply be selected for reply septical above is less than thinty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thinty (30) of 11 NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If they have the provision of 37 CFR 1.136(e). In no event, however, may a reply be 11 NO period for reply septicided above is less than thinty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thinty (30) of 11 NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from 11 NO period for reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from 11 NO period for reply within the set of extended period for reply will, by statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from 11 NO period for reply within the set of extended period for reply will, by statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from 11 NO period for reply will, by statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (8) MONTHS from 12 No period from 12 No period SIX (8) MONTHS from 12 No period from 12 No period SIX (8) MONTHS from	Art Unit 3731 **Correspondence address
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Attachment(s) 4) Intervier Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 5) Notice	ew Summary (170 - 170) e of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) US Patent and Trademark Office Office Action Summary	

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This application contains claims directed to the following 1. patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- a. the species of figures 1-3 and 6;
- b. the species of figure 4;
- c. the species of figure 5;
- d. the species of figure 7; and
- e. the species of figures 8 and 9.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

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Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(I).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2981. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Milano can be

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reached on (703)308-2496. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3590 for regular communications and (703)305-3590 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0858.

mht August 7, 2003 MICHAEL THALER PRIMARY EXAMINER ART UNIT 3731